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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter

other names/site number: n/a

2. Location

street & number: Colorado National Monument

(N/A) not for publication

city, town: Grand Junction, Colorado

(X) vicinity

state: Colorado

code: CO

county: Mesa

code: 077

zip code: 81521

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

() private

() public-local

() public-State

(X) public-Federal

Category of Property

(X) building(s)

() district

() site

() structure

() object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Colorado National Monument MPS

Number of contributing resources previously

listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this (X) nomination () request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property (X) meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Edna B. Brown
Signature of certifying official

3/8/94
Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

William H. Hartman
Signature of Commenting or Other Official

March 24, 1993
Date

State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

(X) entered in the National Register.

() See continuation sheet

() determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet

() determined not eligible for the National Register.

() removed from the National Register.

() other, (explain):

Beth Boland

4/31/94

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: outdoor recreation facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: outdoor recreation facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: National Park Service Rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls sandstone

roof cedar shake

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter (HS-10H) is located near the east entrance of Colorado National Monument in the vicinity of Grand Junction, Colorado. It is a one-story irregular shaped building constructed of native red sandstone with a cedar shake roof. Designed by the National Park Service (NPS) and constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1941, the picnic shelter is an excellent example of NPS Rustic Architecture. The building is in good condition and has suffered few alterations, maintaining integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the historic period.

Setting

The picnic shelter is located in the southeast portion of Colorado National Monument. The topography of the 32-square mile park includes the northern rim of the Uncompahgre Plateau with its deeply cut canyons and towering rock formations. Less than a mile to the south of the shelter is Devils Kitchen Trail, which leads to Devils Kitchen, a natural grotto surrounded by huge upright boulders. Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter is located in an open clearing surrounded by natural sandstone cliffs and by sparse vegetation including juniper, pinon pines, and native brush vegetation. The construction materials and design used in the building blend well with its surroundings. Original sandstone curbing outlines the adjoining parking area and walkways and is a contributing feature to the setting. Visitor parking immediately to the east is linked by two gravel walks to the picnic area. Modern picnic tables and grills are located on the gravel terrace which adjoins the picnic shelter on its west side. The relationship of the picnic shelter to the surrounding area and parking lot is shown on Drawing #2037 (dated May 1940) and photograph copy #7, attached as documentation.

Description

This one-story, irregular shaped building was built on a concrete foundation. Two wings protrude from a central open section, the north having four bays, the south having two. The wings are angled toward the front forming an activity area. A pair of 6"x 8" wood posts separate each bay. Each of the three sections has a firebrick-lined fireplace with a charcoal grill. (Fireplaces are not in use and have been closed off.) A stone seat flanks either side of the center fireplace. Walls and fireplaces are constructed of native red sandstone laid in random ashlar pattern. The center section has both a men's and a women's restroom located at the rear, each accessible from the outside by a wood door. Restrooms have metal stalls with ceramic tile around the lavatory. The rest of the restroom walls and ceilings are plastered. There are three janitor's closets, one located behind each restroom, as well as one next to the center fireplace. The rear elevation of the north

(X) See continuation sheet

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section has three rectangular roughcut 6'x 14' openings and one double 4-light metal casement window; the same elevation of the center section has two double 4-light metal casement windows. The interior floor of the shelter is concrete.

The ceiling has exposed rafters. The roof of the central section is hipped and is elevated above the gabled roofs of the flanking wings. The low-pitched roof, constructed of 4"x 6" beams, 2"x 6" rafters, and 1" roof boards, is covered with cedar shakes, and has exposed rafter ends. (See attached Drawings #2036 in nomination, dated May 1940.)

Extensive rehabilitation work was done to the shelter in 1961. The building was reroofed with hand split cedar shakes (as original). The lower half, rear elevation of the south wing was veneered in concrete to prevent moisture penetration and frost upheaval of the floor slab. The woodwork and sandstone were cleaned of smoke and soot. New colored 4" concrete slab floors were installed in remodeled restrooms, along with new doors and hardware; new frosted glass was installed in metal sash windows (as original). Beneath the shelter the original flagstone flooring was removed and was replaced with 4" colored concrete slab. Support columns were faced with 3/4" lumber. A new gravel 4' walk was added along the rear (east and south) sides of the building, and a 4" poured concrete platform was installed at the rear of the center section. (See Drawing #3137A, dated September 1960.)

While some historic fabric was lost during the 1961 rehabilitation work, these alterations do not significantly affect the architectural integrity of the building which still meets National Register criteria. The building is in good condition and is still used by visitors for its designed purpose.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria X A B X C D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance Significant Dates

1941 - 1944

1941

Architecture

Social History

Entertainment/Recreation

Conservation

Landscape Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service: H. Cornell/

Civilian Conservation Corps

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter has local significance under National Register Criterion A for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration. It also has local significance under National Register Criterion C as a good example of National Park Service Rustic Architecture. The materials and architectural design of this resource reflect the philosophy of incorporating natural landscape elements into planning and design. As the design of the buildings and layout of the area clearly responded to the surrounding landscape, it is significant in the area of landscape architecture. As a national park facility used to manage conservation of the monument and maintain it for visitor use and enjoyment, the building is also significant in the areas of conservation and recreation. The period of significance for the picnic shelter dates from its date of construction in 1941 to 1944, the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register of Historic Places. Significant dates relate to the date of construction.

This nomination is part of the "Colorado National Monument Multiple Property Submission." The picnic shelter is associated with the historic context "National Park Service Rustic Architecture and Public Works Construction, 1933-1942". Five other related individual nominations associated with the multiple property submission are: Rim Rock Drive, Serpents Trail, the Saddlehorn Utility Area, the Saddlehorn Caretaker's Residence and Garage, and the Saddlehorn Comfort Station. The Saddlehorn resources are located in the northwest part of the monument near park headquarters and the visitor center. Rim Rock Drive is a 23-mile scenic route through the monument, going from the monument's East (Grand Junction) Entrance to the West (Fruita) Entrance. Serpents Trail is a historic 2.5 mile hiking trail, (formerly an early road) located near the East Entrance.

Background History and Significance

During the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was initiated by the federal government to alleviate the vast problem of unemployment. Much of the CCC workforce was assigned to federal lands to improve visitor access and to construct government facilities. The projects in Colorado National Monument offered one of the most significant examples of CCC work in western Colorado. With few alterations, these resources still reflect their historic appearance of design and construction.

(X) See continuation sheet

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The first buildings erected by the CCC were in the Saddlehorn headquarters area, located in the northwest part of the monument. They included a utility area, caretaker's residence and garage, campground, and a CCC camp, and initially evolved in response to the need for a permanent base camp for CCC workers, as they were employed in the construction of Rim Rock Drive and other park facilities. Much of Rim Rock Drive had been completed by 1938, making the area accessible to visitors and creating a demand for recreational facilities.¹ All extant CCC-constructed buildings were completed between 1935 and 1941.

Four main CCC camps were established in or near the monument to support the crews working on Rim Rock Drive and other projects. Camp NM-2-C was temporarily established at Monument Canyon trailhead in March of 1933, but was disbanded and moved to Saddlehorn, when the permanent camp was established immediately south of the Saddlehorn. A second camp was located at the mouth of Fruita Canyon where construction on Rim Rock Road began. A third camp was located at West Glade Park/Rim Rock Drive junction. Another camp was located outside the West Entrance across Colorado Highway 340. This camp was later used to house World War II German prisoners of war and is now private property. In addition to the four main camps, numerous spike camps were set up within the monument boundaries.

Designed in 1940 by landscape architect H. Cornell of the National Park Service's Western Division of the Branch of Plans and Design, the Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter was constructed in 1941 with Emergency Conservation Works funding. (See attached picnic shelter plans, Drawing #2036, dated May 1940.) A later NPS drawing (#2037A, dated April 1941), shows plans for the gravel terrace to be landscaped, including the installation of flagstone and blue grass sod. These plans were never executed. The picnic shelter was built to accommodate the recreational needs of visitors to the monument and served as both comfort station and picnic shelter. Like other historic buildings in the monument, the shelter was built by craftsmen hired for their specific skills under the New Deal Relief appropriations. Many of these craftsmen were LEMs (local experienced men), reputed to be stonemasons of Italian descent, that trained a number of the CCC enrollees. The construction was administered by the Public Works Administration and built by contract labor. Sandstone blocks, quarried in Colorado National Monument by CCC men, either from the immediate vicinity or from the Rim Rock Drive construction project, were the primary building material.

The CCC program was phased out at the start of World War II. As men were called to military duty, projects were abandoned and camps dispersed. Most work by the CCC within Colorado National Monument had ended by 1941, and the program was completely shut down in 1942. As the physical remains of CCC base camps are now primarily archeological, the permanent roads and buildings of Colorado National Monument are often the only tangible evidence to visitors that hundreds of men labored there during the Great Depression. The rustic style of architecture displays the history of the development of Colorado National

(X) See continuation sheet

¹ See Rim Rock Drive Historic District individual nomination, part of the Colorado National Monument multiple property submission.

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Monument, and also reflects the craftsmanship of the CCC and the LEMs (local experienced men). Employed for various assignments, enrollees of the CCC were essential in the development of many parks and other government facilities. In Colorado National Monument, the CCC, LEMs, and workers from other relief agencies, not only supplied valuable labor in the construction of park facilities for administrative use but, with the construction of Rim Rock Drive, also opened up the park for thousands of visitors.

The picnic shelter serves visitors as the only such facility in the park. The only other shelter in the park is a small overlook shelter constructed during Mission 66, a ten-year period of development in the National Park Service that began in 1956. The Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter is atypical when compared to picnic shelters in other national parks in the Rocky Mountain Region due to its large size and unusual design.

The Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter is an excellent and well-preserved example of the design methodology of National Park Service Rustic Architecture, with its emphasis on the use of natural and native materials. The picnic shelter was designed in such a way as to not intrude on the natural landscape, but to blend with the terrain and to be in harmony with its surroundings. The topography of Colorado National Monument is a spectacular display of carved sandstone monoliths and valleys amongst semi-desert terrain. In the construction of these buildings, architects, landscape architects, and the CCC manipulated native stone and wood supports to blend with the surrounding landscape. Earthtones are the predominant colors, with natural cream to red for the stone and brown and rust for the wood supports. The construction techniques of the CCC are also exemplified in these buildings. Through the use of native materials and stone masonry craftsmanship, the structures reflect the National Park Service's design philosophy of maintaining a sense of rusticity in construction. Unified in design and construction techniques, Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter and contemporary buildings in the Saddlehorn headquarters and campground area represent the lasting contribution made by public relief projects during the Great Depression, and the rustic architecture design philosophy that prevailed in the National Park Service during the 1930s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Baume, Lawrence and Mildred Harris, National Register of Historic Places Draft Nomination, Colorado National Monument, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, 1987.

Good, Albert, Park Structures and Facilities, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Branch of Planning, Washington, D.C., 1935.

(X) See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # CO-74
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify Repository:

Park files, Colorado National Monument
NPS, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 1/2 7/0/4/8/8/0 4/3/2/2/8/7/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter is situated amongst rock outcroppings, approximately 400 feet west of Rim Rock Drive. The boundary is a 243' by 165' rectangle that is bounded by the parking lot to the east, the terrace to the west, and rock cliff wall on the south, as shown on the accompanying site map.

(x) See site map

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the adjacent parking lot and the outdoor picnic area (gravel terrace). Additional footage was allowed within the boundary lines to incorporate the surrounding vegetation and topography, as this was a key element in placement of this resource.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathy McKoy, Historian

organization National Park Service

street & number 12795 W. Alameda Parkway

city or town Denver

date December 28, 1992; rev. 1/94

telephone (303) 969-2878

state CO zip code 80228

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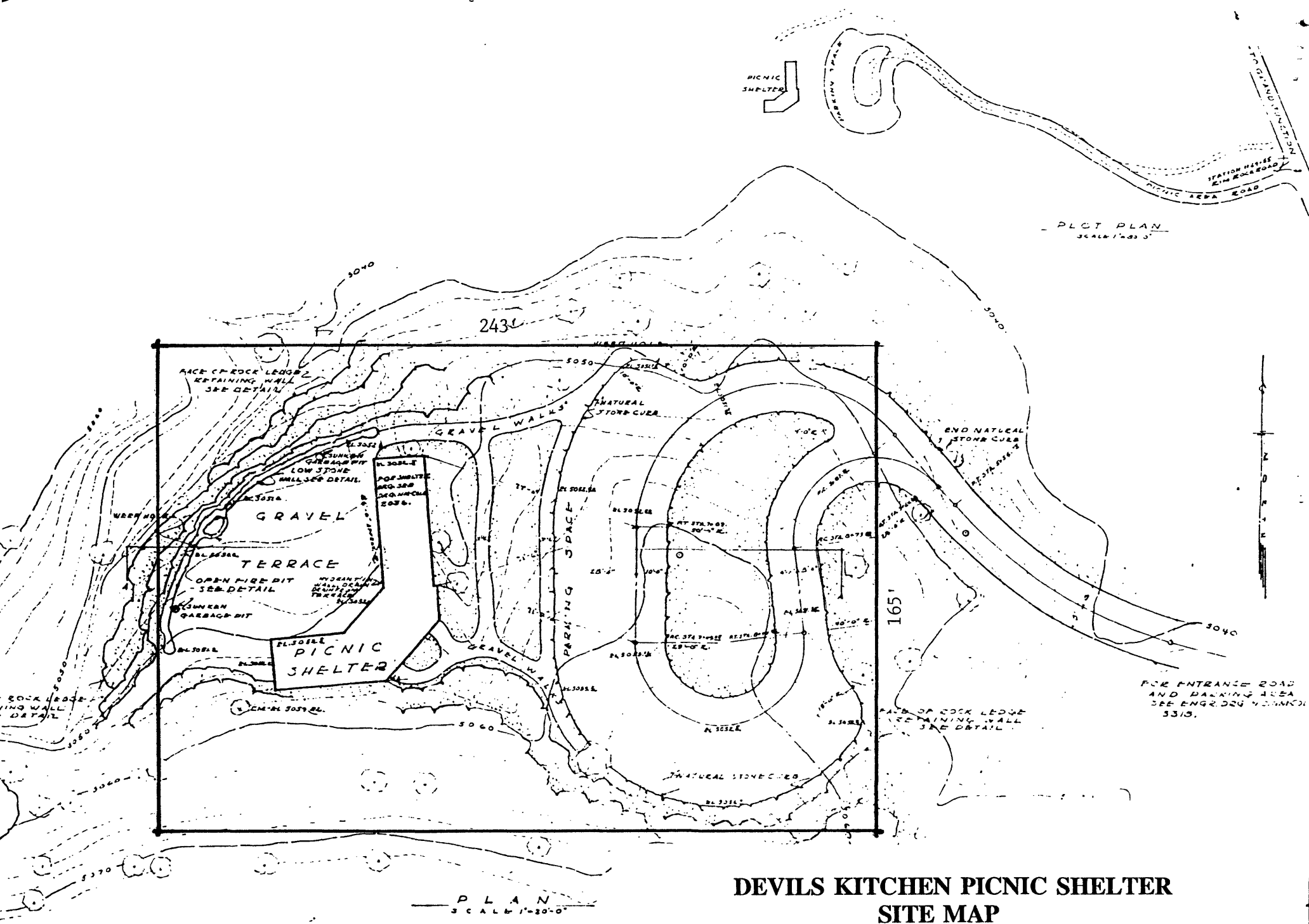
Law, Henry; G., Laura E. Soulliere, William C. Tweed, National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977.

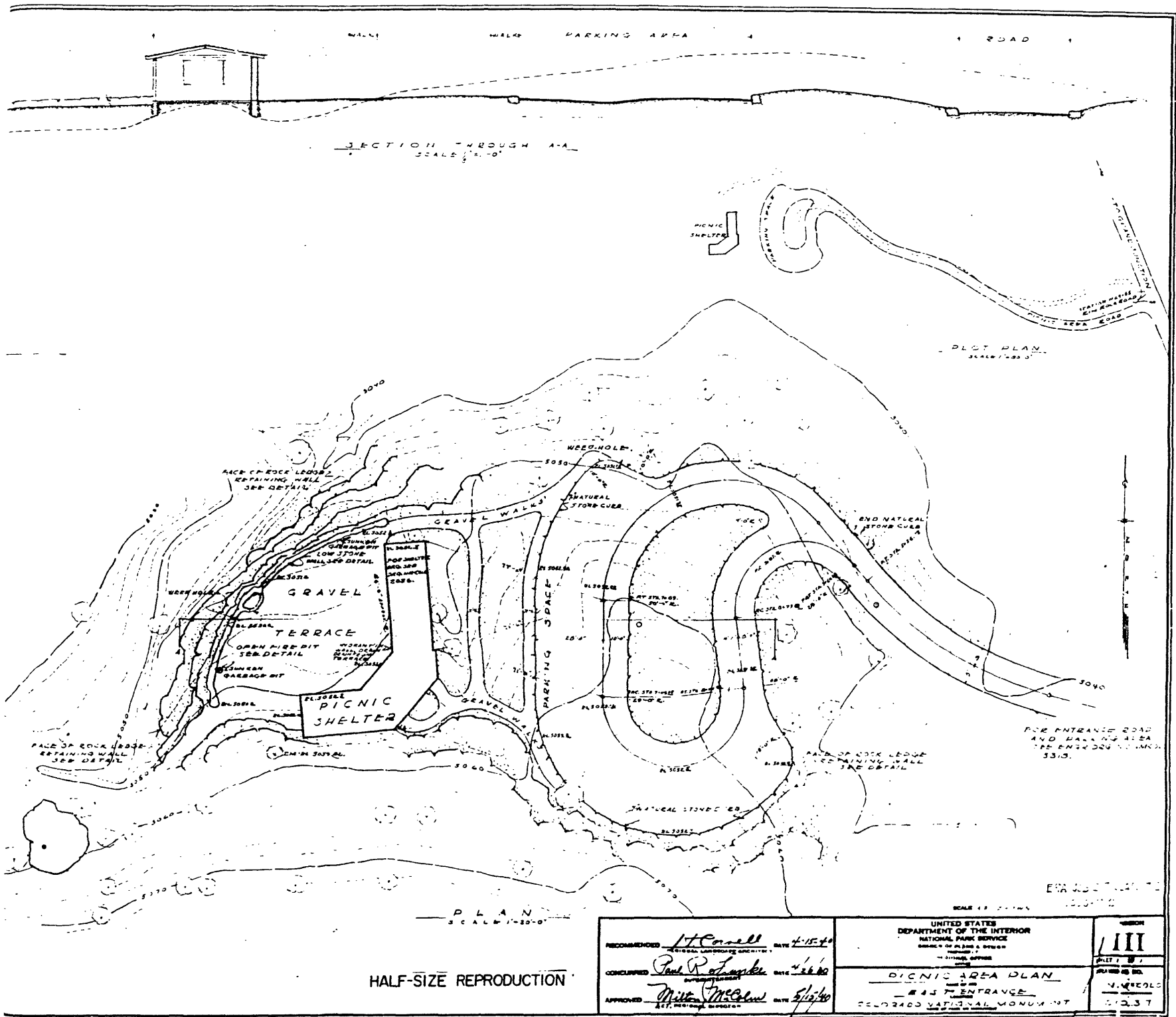
Newspaper Articles, Colorado National Monument 1935-1947, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

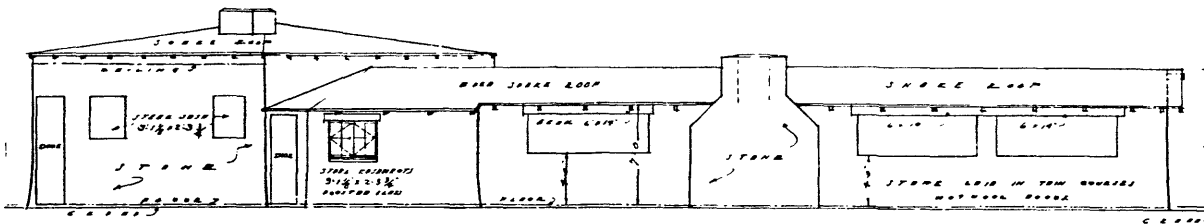
Paige, John, C., The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942: An Administrative History, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1985.

U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center Technical Information Center files: Drawing Nos. 2036, 2037, 2037A, 3137. Denver, CO.

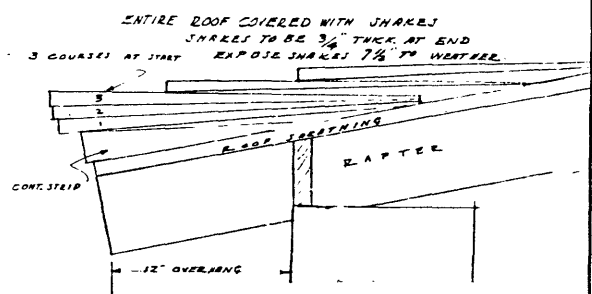
Williams, Lance, List of Classified Structures survey forms, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO, 1976.



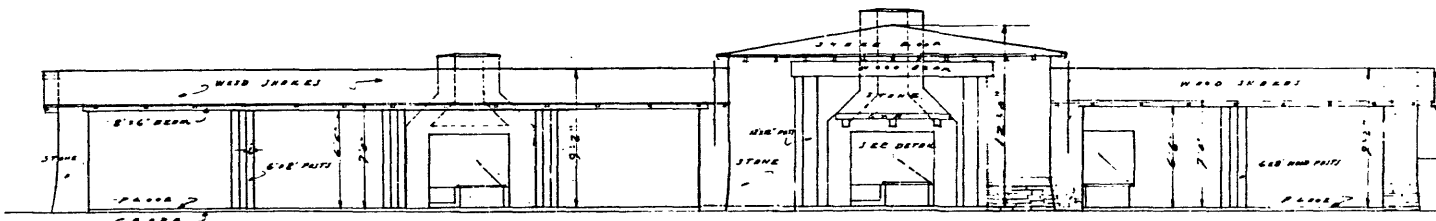




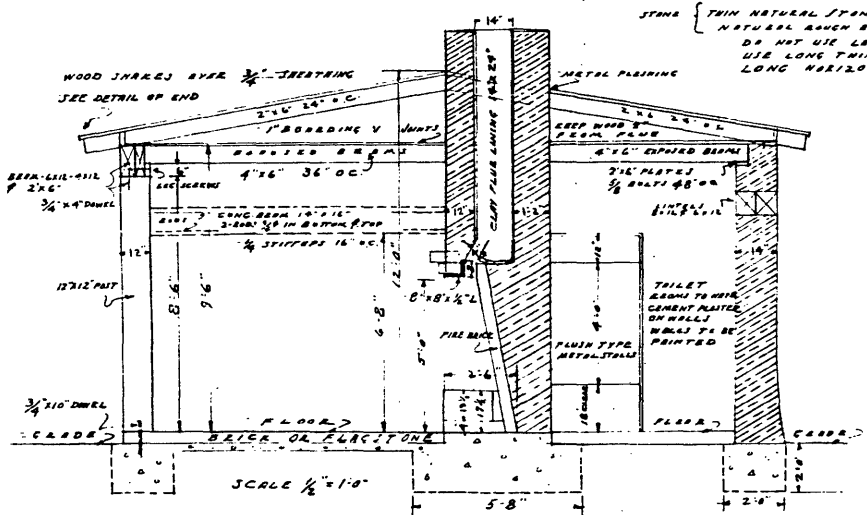
SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



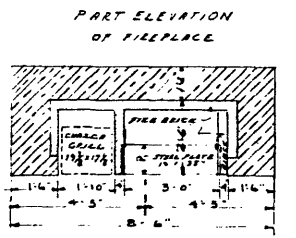
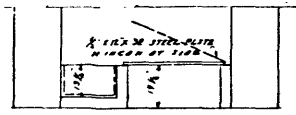
CORNICE DETAIL
1/4" = 1'-0"



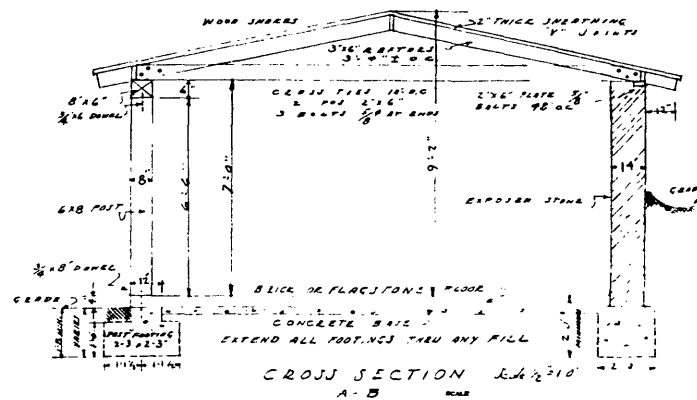
TRUE FRONT ELEVATION SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



CROSS SECTION G-D
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

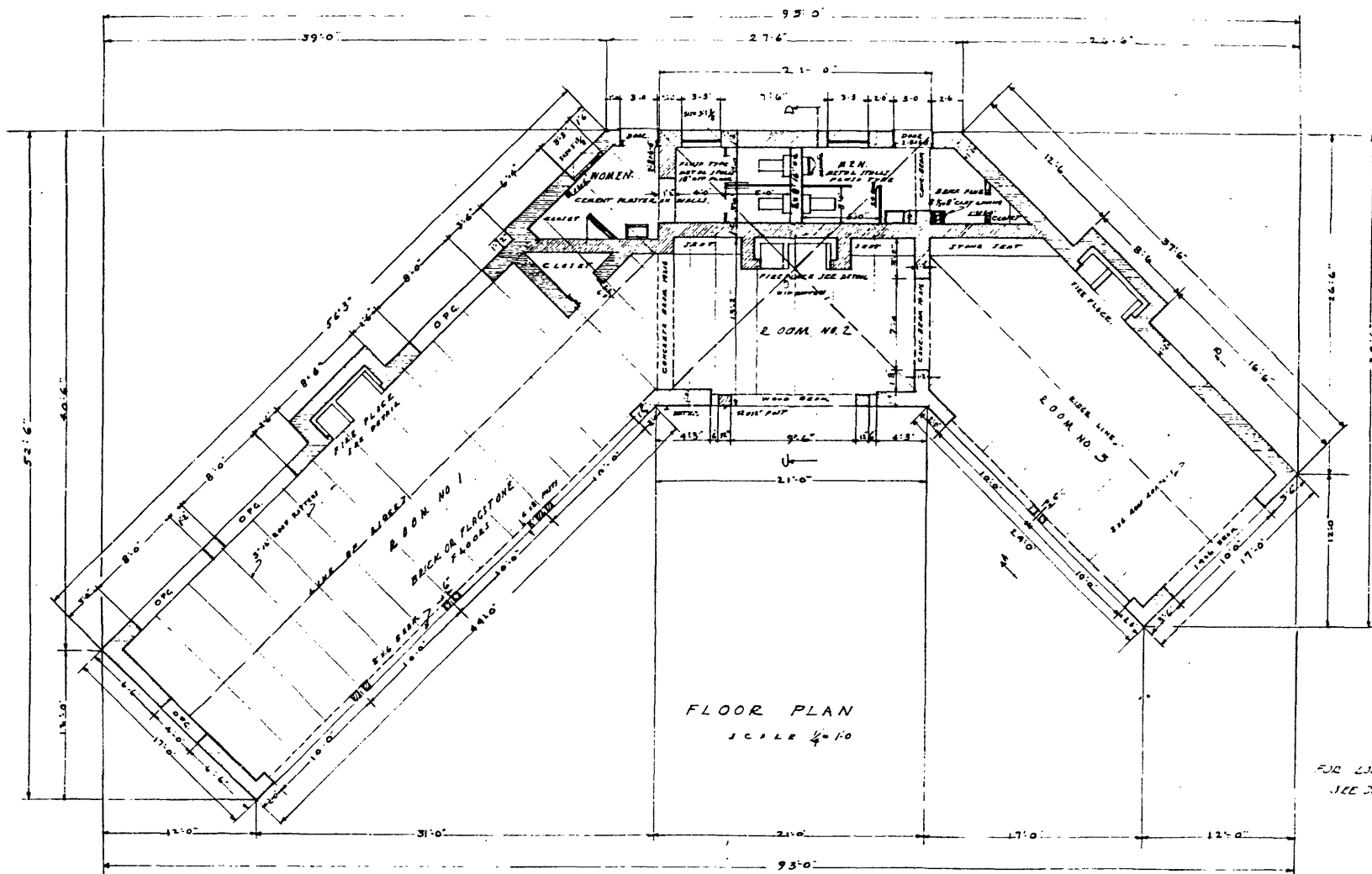


PLAN OF FIREPLACE SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



CROSS SECTION A-B
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

RECOMMENDED		DATE		UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE		REGION III	
CONCURRED		DATE		REGIONAL OFFICE		SHEET 1 OF 2	
APPROVED		DATE		PICNIC MASTER EAST ENTRANCE COLORADO NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL MUSEUM		DRAWING NO. V.M. 2036	

[illegible]

FOR LOCATION & PLOT PLAN
SEE DRAWING IN VOLUME 2037-447-40

HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

RECOMMENDED <i>M. J. MacRae</i> DATE <i>5-11-40</i> <small>Special Agent in Charge, Dept. of the Interior</small> CONSUMED <i>W. J. MacRae</i> DATE <i>5-11-40</i> <small>Special Agent in Charge, Dept. of the Interior</small> APPROVED <i>W. J. MacRae</i> DATE <i>5-11-40</i> <small>Special Agent in Charge, Dept. of the Interior</small>		UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR GRAND CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT GUNNISON, ARIZONA PICNIC SHELTER EAST ENTRANCE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT GUNNISON, ARIZONA	REGION III 14-11 10-2 DIVISION NO. N.M. 2033
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National Park Service

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000309

Date Listed: 4/21/94

Devil's Kitchen Picnic Shelter
Property Name

Mesa
County

CO
State

Colorado National Monument MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

5/4/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance is 1941, the date of construction.
This information was verified by Kathy McKoy, NPS RMRO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)